

High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957, thus becoming known as the Little Rock Nine.

On the very same day that we gave the Congressional Medal of Honor to the "Little Rock Nine," the Nation was burying Daisy Bates, who had recently expired. Without Daisy Bates, I am not sure that there would have been a "Little Rock Nine." Mrs. Daisy Bates was the civil rights leader who helped the nine young people, nine young African Americans to break the color barrier at Little Rock Central High School.

In 1941, Mrs. Bates and her husband, Mr. L.C. Bates, founded the Arkansas State Press. They turned the weekly newspaper into the leading voice for civil rights in the State of Arkansas long before the decision was made to try and integrate Central High School.

As president of the Little Rock NAACP, Daisy Bates, was an inspiration, a spark and a symbol of hope for smaller chapters which were on line or being organized throughout the state and indeed, in many rural and semi-rural communities throughout the Nation. As the struggle in Little Rock intensified and as Mrs. Bates' profile emerged, she appeared as a regal, thoughtful and fiercely determined leader who made tremendous self sacrifices in order to keep the Little Rock NAACP and the Arkansas NAACP alive, viable and continuing to grow.

As the highest profiled African American leader in the state of Arkansas during that period of history, Daisy Bates performed exceptionally well under intense pressure. She was called upon for guidance, counsel, direction and overall leadership for a people.

She was indeed a mother figure, a big sister, a mentor and protector for the Little Rock Nine; but she was more than that, she was a Moses for her people, leading them into a new era of freedom in their quest for equality and justice.

Yes, Mrs. Daisy Bates, a pioneering freedom fighter, may you rest in peace.

CHRISTMAS STORIES

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, soon, the presidential staff will be busy readying the White House for Christmas. The annual lighting of the national Christmas tree is an event punctuated in Washington, DC by the official White House Christmas party.

My wife Maureen and I decided to attend last year and find out for ourselves what it's like at the executive residence. The splendor of the White House, decked with adornments of the season, seemed to dwarf the partisan divisions of politics and reminded guests of the historical significance of Christmas in America.

One of the most compelling American Christmastide stories took place during the Revolutionary War in 1777. One week before Christmas, General George Washington organized his Continental Army at Valley Forge.

Everything important to maintaining the Army was lacking—ammunition, clothing, shel-

ter, blankets, footgear, and food. Washington was unsure whether they would freeze before starving.

When called to answer a small British column conducting foraging raids at nearby Derby, the General urgently dispatched Congress; "... unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place ... this Army must inevitably be reduced to one or other of these things. Starve, dissolve or disperse, in order to obtain subsistence in the best manner they can ..."

The half-naked troops endured famine relieved only by sporadic supply deliveries. Washington fully expected mass desertion or open mutiny, yet the soldiers remained, resolved by their confidence in Washington himself. Washington's personal strength came from God.

A famous account of a Quaker named Isaac Potts emphasized Washington's reliance on prayer at Valley Forge. While passing through the woods near camp headquarters, Potts heard the Commander-in-Chief's voice in the forest.

Potts observed Washington on his knees in the act of devotion and interceding for the well-being of his troops and beloved country. Potts wrote, "... he adored that exuberant goodness which, from the depth of obscurity, had exalted him to the head of a great nation, and that nation fighting at fearful odds for all the world holds dear."

In orders later issued at Valley Forge, Washington told troops, "To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest Glory to laud the more distinguished character of Christian."

Col. John Laurens, the General's aide, wrote of "those dear, ragged Continentals whose patience will be the admiration of future ages." Indeed, to this day, Americans take great inspiration from Valley Forge. The Providential source of the troops' valor is a timeless lesson in faith providing further support for the message of Christmas.

First designated a national holiday in religious terms in 1789, presidential orders and Congressional proclamations have firmly restated the importance of Christmas ever since. Our nation's greatest leaders have always found inspiration in the hope of the Christ Child and the grace of God.

Thomas Jefferson chose among the works of Isaac Watts to be taught, in the District of Columbia schools, the Christmas carol, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her king."

Benjamin Franklin wrote, "Let no pleasure tempt thee, no profit allure thee, no ambition corrupt thee, no example sway thee, no persuasion move thee to do anything which thou knowest to be evil. So shalt thou live jollily, for a good conscience is a continual Christmas."

This year, as Americans revel in the joyous wonder of Christ's birth, we all do well to recall the many examples of God's presence among us and His unmistakable answers to our prayers for liberty. May God continue to bestow His choicest blessings upon the United States of America, this Christmas and always.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. LOUIS RAWLS, PASTOR OF THE TABERNACLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO, IL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Reverend Dr. Louis Rawls on the occasion of the celebration his tenure as Pastor of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Rawls was born July 16, 1905 in Union, Mississippi to the union of James Rawls, Sr. and Louiza Donnell. Dr. Rawls accepted the call of the Lord at the age of twenty-six. He served as pastor of Canaan Baptist Church for nearly ten years. In 1941, the Lord directed Dr. Rawls to organize the Tabernacle Baptist Church, where he has served as Pastor, preacher and teacher for the past fifty-eight years. With the power of the Holy Spirit, Dr. Rawls has fellowshipped more than 23,000 souls into the church.

Dr. Rawls graduated from Wendell Phillips High School in 1928 and Moody Bible Institute in 1934. Dr. Rawls is the recipient of eight earned degrees and six honorary degrees. Dr. Rawls was a founding member of the Chicago Baptist Institute and the founder of the Illinois Baptist State Convention. He has served on numerous boards including, the NAACP, the National Association of Evangelists and the National Religious Broadcasters of America.

Building a ministry that focuses on the total man, Dr. Rawls founded the Willa Rawls Manor and the Tabernacle Community Hospital and Health Center. Dr. Rawls has worked extensively in the civil rights movement with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Jesse Jackson, the NAACP and the Urban League. Dr. Rawls is a devoted and loving family man to his wife, Willa and his three children, Lou, Samuel, and Julius Lee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with thousands of family and friends who will gather in Chicago on November 27, 1999 to recognize the life achievements of Reverend Dr. Louis Rawls, Pastor of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church and I want to encourage Dr. Rawls to continue to be steadfast and unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord. I am truly honored to pay tribute to this outstanding Servant of God and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

MICHAEL J. SCHULTZ

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special constituent from my district, Michael J. Schultz. Mike is a good friend and serves as a shining example of what can be accomplished through dedication and hard work.